



PRESS RELEASE  
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## Williamson County Office of Economic Development and Belmont's Center for Entrepreneurship celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week with business idea competition at Centennial High School

FRANKLIN, TN – In celebration of Global Entrepreneurship Week, Belmont University's Center for Entrepreneurship, in partnership with the Williamson County Office of Economic Development, will hold a business idea competition for 126 high school honors economics students at Centennial High School (5050 Mallory Lane, Franklin) on Wednesday, November 18. Under the direction of faculty and staff from Belmont, students will be given 3 hours to research and develop an idea for new company. Working in teams, the students will pitch a variety of ideas for start-up ventures. The students' ideas will be judged by a panel of local elected officials and business leaders from Williamson County-based companies, including Mars Petcare, Healthways, and Tasti D-Lite.

"The number one priority of Williamson County is education and the number one area of focus of our new five year economic development strategy is promoting education," said Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson. "A strong education system leads to a vibrant entrepreneurial network of young talent with new ideas. With 21% of our workforce classified as entrepreneurs, initiatives like the business idea competition are so important to continue nurture a culture of entrepreneurship in Williamson County."

The schedule for the event is as follows:

7:30am-9:00am	Opportunity assessment process, the art of the pitch, and overview of event
9:00am-12:00pm	Groups develop ideas, research and develop pitch
12:00pm-1:30pm	Preliminary presentation rounds (three students per team, three rounds presenting to judges, three groups per table) Each round will take about 20 25 minutes and each group gets 5 minutes to pitch.
1:30pm-2:15pm	Top few teams present to panel of judges
2:15pm-2:30pm	Announce winners and debrief

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